Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 02153 151747Z ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 /072 W

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O R 151711Z MAR 78 FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4968 INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA AMEMBASSY NICOSIA 7206 ABG HELLENIKON

CONFIDENTIAL ATHENS 2153

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MARR, GR, US SUBJECT: STRIKE ENDS AT U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES

REF: ATHENS 1726 (DTG 281530Z FEB 78)

- 1. THE STRIKE BY EMPLOYEES AT US MILITARY FACILTIES IN GREECE WHICH BEGAN FEBRURY 17 (REFTEL) ENDED TODAY, MARCH 15.
- 2. UNION MEMBERS VOTED MARCH 14 TO RETURN TO WORK FOLLOWING A STATEMENT ON MARCH 10 BY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE THAT A SPECIAL COMMITTEE, IN WHICH THE UNION WOULD BE REPRESENTED, HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED TO EXAMINE THE WORKERS' COMPLAINTS. THE STATMENT ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT CONDITIONS WOULD PERMIT THE REVOCATION OF RECENT DISMISSALS OF A NUMBER OF GREEK EMPLOYEES. THE UNION HAD DEMANDED THEIR REINSTATEMENT DURING A MEETING WITH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE REPRESENTATIVES ON MARCH 7.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 02153 151747Z

3. COMMENT: THE GOG HAS NOT INFORMED US AS YET IN ANY DETAIL ABOUT THE MANDATE OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE. THE FERENCE TO ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN THE MINISTRY'S STATEMENT PERMITTED THE UNION TO "SUSPEND" THE STRIKE, ALTHOUGH ITS MEMBERS AUTHORIZED THE UNION LEADERSHIP TO RESUME IT IF THEIR DEMANDS ARE NOT MET.

4. WITH THE END OF THIS LARGER STRIKE WE ARE FACED BY ANOTHER ONE CALLED BY THE 21-MAN UNION AT THE US NAVE FACILITY AT SOUDA BAY. THE PRINCIPAL ISSUE IN THIS CASE IS FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ARBITRATION COURT AWARD OF A 63 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE WHICH HAS BEEN APPEALED TO THE COUNCIL OF STATE, GREECE'S HIGHEST ADMINISTRATIVE COURT, WHICH IS CONSIDERING THE CASE AT PRESENT. MCCLOSKEY

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